



Austin TGA Administrative Agent Report To HIV Planning Council October 2018

PART A & MAI GRANTS ADMINISTRATION/ MANAGEMENT UPDATE

1. The official Notice of Award from HRSA for the TGA's FY17 Carryover Request was received September 24, 2018. The Part A approved carryover is \$145,996, \$4 less than originally anticipated, and the MAI approved carryover is \$35,757, \$243 less than anticipated. Allocation adjustments for these small differences are included in the Allocations Committee recommendations to be considered at the October 30 Business Meeting. The AA will begin the next round of contract amendments, to include these small adjustments, carryover, and potential reallocations, after Allocations Committee recommendations are voted on at the Business Meeting.
2. All indications are that it is very likely that Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program FY19 funding will be allocated in single awards. The full-year FY19 Budget for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was appropriated as part of an omnibus budget bill signed by the President on September 28. There have been multiple partial awards for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) every year for well over a decade.
3. The Pre-Monitoring Conference for subrecipients was held October 23, during which the plan for Compliance Monitoring, based on the HRSA National Monitoring Standards, and Quality Assurance monitoring, which will include monitoring on the Austin TGA Standards of Care and Austin Public Health contract terms and conditions, was presented. Phase I Monitoring is planned to begin in Mid-November and end the first week of December. Phase II will take place in early 2019. The Administrative Agent has negotiated, as part of the monitoring, a report to the HIV Planning Council by the monitoring consultant. This report will not identify subrecipients, but will provide general information on the TGA system of care and suggestions for improvements in the system. The monitor, Collaborative Research, recommended the change from the Outreach to Early Intervention Services (EIS) service categories as part of previous monitoring; the HIV Planning Council took that action as part of its FY18 allocations vote in July 2018.
4. Five AA staff members, three Planning Council members, two Planning Council Office of Support Staff, and at least four subrecipient staff members will be attending the National Ryan White Conference (NRWC) in December. In addition, local subrecipient clinical staff are attending the clinical conference held just before the NRWC.



5. The AA held its first scheduled monthly Part A Monthly Conference Call with the TGA's new Project Officer (PO), Michael Carrigan, on October 24. The call lasted more than its scheduled hour and included an informative briefing by the PO. Included in the information provided was a status report on the TGA FY19 application; the application is currently undergoing a "deep dive" budget review before the full application is released to an Objective Review Committee. Any requested or required changes in the TGA's budget request as submitted will be addressed in a conference call expected to take place the first week of December. Mr. Carrigan also noted that the TGA should expect its written Site Visit Report in the near future.
6. During a Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Update National Webinar on October 23, HAB/HRSA staff discussed a study regarding the method by which Part A Supplemental funding is awarded. [Part A funding is awarded in two separate "buckets": Formula and Supplemental. Formula funding is based on a TGA/EMA share of living HIV (non-AIDS and AIDS), while Supplemental funding is distributed via competitive supplemental grants based on demonstrated need. Funding is approximately 2/3 Formula and 1/3 Supplemental.] The HAB/HRSA study proposes eliminating the annual competitive application method by which Supplemental funding is awarded, and using data-based need indicators to award the funding instead. Removing the annual competitive application process would be a huge burden reduction on Part A jurisdictions, who often see little correlation between application score and Supplemental award. The change would require Congressional action since the competitive basis of Supplemental funding awards is included in the Ryan White Treatment Modernization Act of 2009 legislation. There will likely be a good deal of conversation about this proposal at the NRWC in December.
7. HAB/HRSA has issued a revision of its Policy Clarification Notice (PCN) 16-02: *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Services: Eligible Individuals & Allowable Uses of Funds*. The update affects a number of service categories. AA Staff are studying how changes in the PCN may affect the Austin TGA, and will keep the HIV Planning Council informed of any significant effects. PCN 15-02: *Clinical Quality Management Policy Clarification Notice*, is also under revision and is hoped to be released prior to the National Conference in December. Changes in PCN 15-02 may reduce the number of performance measures required for service categories funded with relatively small dollar amounts. Finally, a new/revised PCN regarding eligibility is making its way through the many levels of bureaucracy required by such policy changes, and its possible release date is unknown.
8. The AA has begun the posting/hiring process for the first of three retirements planned for December 2018 and January 2019. The retiring individuals have a combination of over 50 years' experience working in the RWHAP for the City of Austin, and the "brain power" as

well as the closely placed dates will be an adjustment and a challenge. The AA is unlikely to be able to provide anything other than the basic support functions to the HIV Planning Council during the period between retirements and the integration and training of new staff.

PART A & MAI FISCAL UPDATE

9. FY18 **ESTIMATED** Expenditure Summary for March 2018-September 2018

Percent of year elapsed: 58%

| CATEGORY | Budgeted Amount | ESTIMATED Expended Amount | Percent Expended |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| DIRECT SERVICES | \$4,477,489 | \$2,378,559 | 53% |
| ADMINISTRATION (HRAU & Planning Council Support) | \$457,995 | \$216,216 | 47% |
| QUALITY MANAGEMENT | \$166,998 | \$98,111 | 59% |
| TOTAL | \$5,102,482* | \$2,692,885 | 53% |

*Includes FY17 carryover at \$247 less than original allocation

Expenditures by service category are provided monthly to the Allocations Committee.

OTHER HIV RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION UNIT NEWS

10. HRAU's Objective Review Committee (ORC) for the City General Fund HIV Services competitive solicitation met in early October. New contracts will have an initial 42-month term beginning April 1, 2019 and running through September 30, 2022. This 3 ½ year initial term provides stability in funding for successful Applicants. Approximately \$630,000 in annual funding will be awarded.
11. HRAU paid registration costs for 11 APH employees and one Planning Council member to attend the Health Literacy Conference in San Antonio. The conference was sponsored by The Health Collaborative and is an annual event that brings together direct services providers, community members including RWHAP consumers, health administrators, health advocates, and many others for two days of workshop sessions regarding how people learn and communicate about health, as well as innovative service delivery models. The annual conference is highly recommended.

12. Upcoming Key Dates for HRAU:

- November 5: Begin FY18 Part A Contract Amendment Process/Carryover & Adjustments
- November 13-December 7: Annual Subrecipient Monitoring, Phase I
- November 15: Begin FY19 Part C Contract Negotiation Process
- November 27-29: Texas Annual HIV/STD Conference
- December 1: FY18 Part AA Rapid Reauthorization Authority Begins
- December 11-14: Ryan White National Conference, Oxon Hill, MD
- December 15: Goal for FY18 Carryover/Adjustment Contract Amendments Execution
- December 15: Begin FY19 Part A Contract Negotiation Process
- December 31: Deadline for Part C Contract Amendments Execution
- January 1: New Part C Grant Year Begins
- February 28: Deadline for Part A Contract Amendments Execution
- March 1: New Part A Grant Year Begins
- March 31: Deadline for New City Funding HIV Contract Execution
- April 1: New City HIV Contracts Begin
- April 14-16: Synchronicity 2019: The National Conference on HIV, HCV, STDs, & LGBT Health, Washington, D.C.
- April 23-25: National Grants Management Association Annual Training, Arlington, VA

QUALITY MANAGEMENT/DATA MANAGEMENT UPDATE

13. The CQI Committee met on October 11. Agenda topics included: service provider quality improvement project updates; issues related to HAB reports in ARIES; Ryan White Services Report (RSR) preparation; review and comment on Opt-Out ARIES Information Sharing form for clients; current use of Patient Navigators and Community Health Workers in case management programs; Client Satisfaction Survey tools and administration process; and training needs.
14. Revised Standards of Care for all Austin TGA-funded service categories are available on the AustinHIV website (www.austinhiv.com) under Contractor Resources. The three final service category Standards of Care were approved by Planning Council at the September business meeting.
15. On October 9, CQM staff participated in the second Fast Track Cities/Getting to Zero Consortium Workgroup on Retention, Re-engagement, and Viral Suppression. The October workgroup focused on key strategies and current assets/activities.
16. Feedback on service providers' annual CQM Plans, outcomes reports, and other quality improvement issues were discussed at QM site visit meetings with five of seven Part A service providers. The two remaining onsite meetings will take place later this year.

17. Using a HRSA/HAB clinical chart monitoring tool, an Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services (OAHS) quality assurance medical chart review will be conducted during the Phase I Annual Subrecipient Monitoring process
18. Mid-year outcomes reports were submitted by service providers in October and reviewed for variance from established outcome goals.
19. National Service Research's proposed scope of work and budget have been negotiated for a comprehensive Client Satisfaction Survey scheduled for January 2019. After the contract is executed, the vendor will meet with and receive input from the CQI Committee.
20. The QM Coordinator has been approved to join The Texas HIV Syndicate, a collaboration of leaders from across the state working together to share and generate insights into a variety of HIV-related issues. The Syndicate seeks to develop a shared knowledge base to improve current prevention and care practices at both the state and local levels.
21. The RSR (Ryan White Services Report) season has begun. The annual report is a data reporting requirement that reports client-level services and other data on a national basis. The final report is due until March 25, 2019, but is a several-month process because data must be complete for each subrecipient, and tested and coordinated between subrecipients, the AA, and the State. Changes from the 2017 report appear to be fairly minor.
22. ADAP applications are now being uploaded through ARIES by one subrecipient with the goal of reducing time between application and approval. This wait time becomes more important as rapid linkage programs to connect newly diagnosed HIV-positive individuals with medical care and antiretroviral medication come to the fore. Longer waiting periods for ADAP approval means higher demand on Part A Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) funding.

CLIENT COMPLAINTS

23. No written complaints received.